

Message Text

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NSC FOR AARON, T FOR UNDERSECRETARY BENSON

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MASS, KE, US

SUBJECT: DELIVERY OF HILL REPORT TO KENYAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

REFS: (A) NAIROBI 10553; (B) STATE 178096, (C) STATE 068175,
(D) STATE 057496

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEFENSE PERMANENT SECRETARY KIEREINI'S REQUEST (REF A), GENERAL HILL ON JULY 18 BRIEFED SERVICE COMMANDERS AND MOD PERSONNEL ON SURVEY REPORT. BRIEFING WAS SIMILAR TO THAT OUTLINED REF (A). HILL REITERATED AT SEVERAL POINTS THAT, SUBJECT TO CONTRACTUAL CONDITIONS, GOK COULD TERMINATE ANY FUTURE US/KENYAN SECURITY COOPERATION AT ANY STAGE AND THAT USG, IF IT WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM, COULD DO THE SAME. KIEREINI STRESSED HIS RECOGNITION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THIS POINT, BRIEFING WAS WELL RECEIVED BY SERVICE PERSONNEL, WHO INDICATED GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH ITS CONCLUSIONS
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AND RECOMMENDATIONS. ATTENDEES DID, HOWEVER, SAY THEY WOULD NEED FURTHER TIME TO ASSSIMILATE THE REPORT COMPLETELY.

2. ON JULY 19, DCM, PLLOFF, AND PETER SOMMER FROM THE HILL TEAM MET WITH KIERINI TO DISCUSS FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT. PERMSEC STRESSED THAT WHILE GOK HAD NOT YET MADE DECISION ON WHICH RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPL-

MENT, ANY FURTHER EXPANSION OF KENYAN FORCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH REPORT WOULD ENTAIL SERIOUS FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS, WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE STUDIED MOST CAREFULLY. KIEREINI SAID HIS SERVICE COMMANDERS WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE AIR CAVALRY CONCEPT PROPOSED BY THE REPORT. HE, HOWEVER, WAS CONCERNED THAT THE \$12 MILLION FMS CREDIT AVAILABLE FOR FY 78 WOULD COVER ONLY A MINOR PORTION OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE \$44 MILLION AIR CAVALRY PACKAGE. KIERINI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE USG HAS DECLARED ITSELF PREPARED TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL FMS CREDITS INFUTURE YEARS, BUT THERE WAS ENOUGH UNCERTAINTY THAT CREDITS WOULD ACTUALLY BE FORTHCOMING IN SUFFICIENT AMOUNTS THAT HE FEARED AN ADVERSE REACTION WHEN HE PRESENTED THE PROGRAM FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE KENYAN TREASURY. KIEREINI SAID HE FELT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED IN WHAT MIGHT APPEAR TO THE SENIOR POLITICANS TO BE A RATHER LUKEWARM US RESPONSE TO THE KENYAN APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE. KIEREINI POINTED OUT THAT THE KENYAN REQUEST HAD BEEN MADE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, PERSONALLY FROM HIS VICE PRESIDENT TO PRESIDENT CARTER, AND THAT PRESIDENT CARETER HAD INDICATED THAT USG WOULD BE SYMPATHETIC TO FURTHER SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO KENYA. KIERIINI STRESSED THAT SINCE KENYA'S DEVELOPING ECONOMY MADE IT NECESSARY TO EXTEND PERIOD OF PAYMENT FOR ARMS ACQUISITIONS, THAT IN KENYAN TERMS, "HELP" IMPLIED CREDITS AS WELL AS HARDWARE.

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3. IN REPLY, US SIDE ASSURED KIEREINI THAT USG RECOGNIZED KENYA'S SECURITY CONCERNS AND WANTED TO ASSIST HIS GOVERNMENT IN MEETING ITS DEFENSE NEEDS TO THE EXTENT THAT IT COULD, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF SOME ADDITIONAL FMS CREDIT IN FY 79 AND FY 80(REF B). EXPLAINING THE NATURE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION PROCESS, US REPS EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS SIMPLY NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS JUNCTURE FOR USG TO MAKE FURTHER SPECIFIC COMMITMENT ON FMS FINANCING.

4. . COMMENT: IT IS APPARENT THAT THE KENYAS, BOTH IN THE MINISTRY AND IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES CONSIDER THE HILL REPORT THE BEST SECURITY ADVICE THEY HAVE EVER GOTTEN. IN A DINNER AT KIEREINI'S HOUSE ON THE EVENING OF JULY 19, KIEREINI CONTRASTED BRITISH MANN REPORT VERY UNFAVORABLY WITH THE WORK DONE BY THE HILL TEAM. THE SURVEY MISSION AND ITS REPORT HAVE THUS SUERVED US INTERESTS WELL, RASING OUR STOCK AT THE MOMENT TO PERHAPS AN ALL TIME HIGH.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT THE HELICOPTER AND TRAINING ACQUISITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERAL HILL'S RECOMMENDATIONS CAN BE SUPPORTED BY THE KENYAN ECONOMY. OBVIOUSLY, THE

GREAER THE LEVEL OF FMS CREDITS AVAILABLE TO KENYA, THE MORE EASILY THE COUNTRY WILL BE ABLE TO BEAR THE BURDEN. BUT PERHAPS MORE IMPORRTANT, FROM THE US POINT OF VIEW, IS THE FAVORABLE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF OFFERING ADDITIONAL FMS CREDITS. ASWE HERE AT THE EMBASSY SEE IT, WE HAVE ENTERED INTO A LIMITED DEFENSE SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH KENYA FOR TWO PURPOSES, BOTH OF WHICH ARE IMPORTANT TO US: (A) TO HELP GIVE KENYA A CREDIBLE DETERRENT FORCE, WHICH MAY DISCOURAGE KENYA'S NEIGHBORS, PARTICULARLY SOMALIA, FROM AGGRESSION TOWARD KENYA, THUS REINFORCING THE GENERAL STABILITY OF THE HORN; (B) TO PROMOTE OUR OWN RELATIONS WITH KENYA, WITH THE SPECIAL PURPOSE OFINSURING OUR CONTINUED STRATGIC ACCESS TO KENYA'S PORTS AND AIR FIELDS. THESE PURPOSES CAN BE CONFIDENTIAL

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ACHIEVED TO SOME EXTENT BY OFFERING THE HARDWARE AND THE TRAINING. BUT FURTHERANCE OF US INTERESTS WILL BE GREATLY INCREASED IF WE CAN OFFER SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL FMS CREDITS IN THE COMING FISCAL YEARS. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT TO ENSURE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR OBJECTIVES HERE IT WILL BE DESIRABLE TO OFFER KENYA SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL FMS CREDITS(ABOVE THAT PROGRAMMED IN FY 79 IN SUPPORT OF THE F5-E PROGRAM) IN SUCCEEDING YEARS TO SUPPORT MODERNIZATION EFFORT.

6. WE WOULD EMPHASIZE ONCE AGAIN THAT THE EXPANSION OF THE KENYAN ARMED FORCES IS NOT BEING UNDERTAKEN MERELY AS A PRESTIGE PROGRAM OR BECAUSE OF ANY AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS KENYA HAS TOWARDS HER NEIGHBORS. RATHER, KENYA IS FACED WITH CREDIBLE THREATS, PARTICULARLY FROM SOMALIA, AND IS LOOKING TO HER FRIENDS FOR ASSISTANCE IN MEETING THEM. US INTERSTS, POLITICAL, STRETGIC, AND ECONOMIC, IN KENYA ARE IMPORTANT ENOUGHT THAT AN INVESTMENT OF THIS MAGNITUDE TO REINFORCE THEM IS CLEARLY JUSTIFIED.

7. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO SEND NOTETO GOK REASSURING KENYANS THAT USG WILL MAKE MAXIMUM EFFORT PROVIDE REASONABLE LEVEL(UNSPECIFIED) OF FMS FINANCING IN FUTURE YEARS, WITHOUT MAKING ANY FIRM COMMITMENT.

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